

which tension can be applied to the pin to hold the components together. Disadvantages of this device include the requirement for manual dexterity in manipulating the pivoted pawl, and the fact that this and its associated pivot pin increase the number of component parts of the device and therefore the cost of construction and assembly, as well as the risk of malfunction due to components being out of tolerance.

As used herein the term "toggle clamp" will be understood to relate to a mechanism comprising two parts pivotally engaged or engagable with respect to one another, one of which comprises a tension member and the other of which comprises an operating member or lever. The axis about which the two parts of the clamp are turnable with respect to one another is spaced from an effective point of contact between the operating member or lever and a part of the closure which it engages in use, the arrangement being such that in turning about the pivot axis between the two clamp members from a release position to a clamped position the line of action through the contact point with the closure member is displaced transversely of the line of action between the pivotable connection between the two clamp members and the contact point of the tension member with the other closure member, passing through a "centre" position in which the pivot axis and the said two lines of action are all aligned, at which point the tension applied to the tension member is at its greatest. In the closure position, therefore, the tension applied to the tension member holds the operating lever in its closed position.

The resilience in a toggle clamp mechanism is usually provided by making the tension member of such a material and shape that it can be stressed upon the application of a tensile force between each end or by the provision of a separate spring of the toggle clamp mechanism acting between the tension member and the operating member or lever such that the spring is compressed as the operating lever moves towards its point of maximum compression as the two lines of action are aligned.

According to one aspect of the present invention a closure casing having two co-operating closure members defining an enclosed space between them when in a juxtaposed closure position is provided with means for holding the closure members together in the closure position comprising at least one over-centre or toggle clamp